

**CITY OF FRESNO
DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
City Hall, Second Floor – City Council Chambers**

UNAPPROVED - MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2011 MEETING

DAC Commission Members Present: Rachelle Taylor (Chair), Michelle Bronson (Vice Chair), Jenelle Pitt, Dorothy Young, Carlos Duarte (ex officio)

DAC Commission Members Absent: Robert Hand, Mary Beth Randall

Staff Present: Shelley Morrison, Administrative Manager, Public Works

Vice Chair Bronson called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. She indicated that there was no quorum, so no action items would be addressed. (Chair Taylor arrived at 10:25 am).

Call to Order

Call to Order and self introductions were made.

Member Reports and Comments

Vice Chair Bronson reported that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) was holding an event for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Children this Saturday at Letterman Park in Clovis. Member Duarte asked the time for the event. Member Bronson reported the event would start at 1:50 pm.

Secretary's Report

None.

Unscheduled Communication

None.

Presentation: Budget Challenge - Department of Public Works

Patrick Wiemiller, Director of Public Works, gave a presentation on the budget challenges as they affect the areas of interest to the DAC. Director Wiemiller stated that a number of these areas still have funding streams available: sidewalk and pothole repair, curb ramp upgrades in alterations projects, and retrofitting of curb ramps in existing locations. The curb ramp retrofit program will be proceeding on a slower pace than in previous years, as the remaining locations without ramps have utility conflicts or other issues that require additional time and resources. Director Wiemiller stated that tree trimming, however, is currently underfunded. Rather than a proactive program of preventative tree trimming, the Department is trimming trees reactively: trimming or removing trees when dead, dying, diseased or dangerous, or when trimming is required to provide walkway clearance.

Director Wiemiller mentioned that some key staff positions will be filled within Public Works. These include a grant writer position that is instrumental in securing funds for infrastructure improvement and the ADA Coordinator position. Mr. Wiemiller noted that the current ADA Coordinator was leaving, but that the Department would seek to fill the position.

Presentation: Disability Capital Action Day

Ms. Kellie Longo-Albarran, Systems Change Advocate for Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV), gave a short presentation on the Disability Capital Action Day scheduled for May 25, 2011. Consumers are invited to attend and visit State legislators and consult on upcoming legislation. Ms. Longo-Albarran indicated that RICV currently had room for five more consumers to attend; they would be picked up at RICV at 6:30 am and return at 7 pm.

Vice Chair Bronson asked what type of activities were included in the Disability Capital Action Day. Ms. Longo-Albarran described different activities, including performances, guest speakers, and meetings with youth, in addition to meetings with legislators.

Approval of Minutes

With the arrival of the Chair, the DAC had a quorum. Member Pitt advised the chair that there was an error on the agenda, and that the agenda should read “approval of the minutes of April 19, 2011 meeting,” instead of the “March 15” meeting. An motion was made to approve the minutes [inaudible] and seconded by Member Pitt. The motion was passed.

Presentation: Community Leadership Academy

Ms. Longo-Albarran described RICV’s Community Leadership Academy, which trains people with disabilities to serve of local boards and community organizations. There have been 30 graduates, and RICV is recruiting for a new class starting July 19th. The Academy runs one night per week for five weeks. Interested individuals should contact Ms. Longo-Albarran at RICV.

Report: Task Force on Captioning of Local TV News

Vice Chair Bronson reported on the work of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC) task force to improve captioning for local television. She indicated that there would be a meeting of the DHHSC task force on 5/25/11 at 4:30 pm at DHHSC, and that the public was invited. This group will have a major event in September 2011, in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Month.

Action Item: Formation of a Task Force to assist the Office of Emergency Services in developing Social Networking resources

Sean Johnson, the City’s Emergency Preparedness Officer, requested that the DAC form a task force to assist in developing accessible resources for notifying the community in case of emergency. The notification technology will include social networking sites like FaceBook, Twitter and Nixle.

Chair Taylor asked what kind of information Mr. Johnson was seeking, including whether he wanted them to comment on the messages that would be distributed. Mr. Johnson stated that he was interested in what kind of messages

the community would find helpful; for example, if information on road closures be useful.

Mr. Johnson stated that he is currently working on a new web page, and on information dissemination through media partners. He was hoping for 2-3 members from the Commission, including someone from the Deaf community. Mr. Johnson stated that the group could also provide feedback on other aspects of emergency planning. Mr. Johnson said the group could have a preliminary meeting at Fire Department Headquarters.

Members Duarte, Taylor, Bronson, and Pitt volunteered for this Task Force.

Chair Taylor made a motion to create a task force to provide feedback to the Office of Emergency Services. The motion was seconded by Member Young. There was no public comment, and the motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Cancelling June 21, 2011 Meeting

Member Pitt noted another error on the agenda: it originally referred to the June 2010 meeting. Chair Taylor clarified that the DAC was considering cancelling the June 2011 meeting because of staff changes and summer schedules.

Member Pitt made a motion to cancel the June 21, 2011 DAC meeting and resume in August. Member Young seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.